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of the Secretary

The Street, SW

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ant: Galveston Independent School District

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g Year: 2005

71 Application Number: 495787

Request Numbers: 1394796, 1394809, 1394818, 1394857, 1394894, 1394909,

8, 1452998

cket No. 2-06 and CC Docket No. 96-45

Lyane Cleveland, Superintendent Galveston ISD 3904 Avenue T. Galveston, Texas 77550 (409) 766-5121 (409) 766-5106 (Fax)

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Lyans Cicertand, Superintendent

Cille Bross 660) Gabraston, Texas 77553 - (489) 766-5100 (Office) - 409-766-5106 (Puz)



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Monitoring marketplaces and enforcing rules to assure safe,

adequate and reliable utility services.

Ted Strickland, Governor Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

Commissioners

Ronda Hartman Fergus Donald L. Mason, Esq. Valerie A. Lemmie Paul A. Centolella

June 12, 2007

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street SW Washington, DC. 20554

Re: Rural Health Care Pilot Project WC Docket No. 02-60

HOUSEY FLETTY

Dear Rural Health Care Pilot Project Review Committee:

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) commends the Federal Communications Commission for its efforts to spur deployment of broadband facilities for purposes of serving the health and medical needs of America's rural populations. That your pilot program focuses on creating regional and state-wide networks, which is an incentive for health care providers to jointly plan for the most efficient network configurations based on their needs, will help ensure the best use of the funding that remains available as part of the Rural Health Care program, begun in 1997.

To that end, I encourage you to consider the proposals submitted to you that would benefit the rural citizenry of Ohio. Applications were sent to you by the Northeast Ohio Regional Health Information Organization, Holzer Consolidated Health Systems, and Southern Ohio Health Care Network. Should these Ohio projects be realized, those who live and work in many of Ohio's rural areas will have the opportunity and means to attain e-health services they might not otherwise receive.

The criteria you will consider in determining who receives funding for the pilot project include plans for aggregating the specific needs of health care providers; leveraging existing technology; planning for the build-out of a dedicated network; possessing an already successful track record in network deployment; and, finally, provisioning service to a significant number of rural health care providers. These are laudable criteria and you are to be applauded for setting them as necessary in order to receive any funding. We trust that you will find those applicants wishing to service rural Ohioans in possession of these characteristics and plans.

Ohio, under the leadership of Governor Ted Strickland, is dedicated to having its health-related state agencies participate in efforts to promote better adoption of health information technology and exchange of health information. Consistent with that vision, we at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio offer our support of the applications submitted to the FCC by Northeast Ohio Regional Health Information Organization, Holzer Consolidated Health Systems, and Southern Ohio Health Care Network, and we ask that you consider the Ohio applicants for participation in the pilot program. As you consider the submissions you have received for this funding opportunity, we encourage you to contact us if there is any manner in which we can assist you in this important endeavor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alan R. Schriber

Chairman

Sincerely.

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